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Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

B.C. WELCOMES INCREASED IMMIGRATION FUNDING

VICTORIA – The Province welcomed today's federal announcement that funding for settlement and immigration services in British Columbia will increase to $104.3 million for 2008/09, up from $75.4 million in 2007/08.

"British Columbia has negotiated a substantial increase with the federal government to ensure immigrants and their families are supported in making the transition to living and working in our communities," Attorney General Wally Oppal said. "Today's announcement recognizes that B.C. is one of the most popular destinations in Canada for new immigrants."

B.C. receives over 42,000 new immigrants every year. New funding will further support the WelcomeBC initiative, which helps immigrants moving to B.C. access existing and expanded services, assisting them in better adapting to life in their new communities. WelcomeBC also supports communities to build capacity to better attract and retain immigrants.

With this increase, WelcomeBC now represents a total investment by the federal and provincial governments of $246 million to the end of 2008/09. The funding was negotiated by British Columbia under the Agreement for Canada-British Columbia Cooperation on Immigration.

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